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Comments: As a resident and property owner in the Northern Black Hills, I'm very concerned by the proposed Golden Crest Exploration Drilling #62590 by Solitario Zinc. I request permission for the exploratory drilling be denied.

Regardless of test drill mitigation measures, which describe a scenario in which everything is cleaned up "when done", filled in, and even left better than it was found, there is no purpose behind it if positive results aren't followed by mine development.

This trajectory needs to be considered, along with the second Ponderosa Project proposal to the south.

Follow-on mine development means substantial degradation of the northern Black Hill environment, a unique region that draws one million tourists per year to South Dakota, and is home to many people as well as wildlife.

With mine development and the inevitable loss of wildlife habitat, the disruption of life patterns, property value decline, inevitable damage if not contamination of water supplies residents depend on, and the remaking of a rarely beautiful place into something ugly for almost no local benefit only loss, it seems very poor stewardship of a national forest to proceed.

Observe satellite photos of the Coeur Wharf Mine wasteland near Terry Peak as seen from space (also attached):

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Terry+Peak/@44.3906536,-103.9774151,44477m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m6!3m5!1s0x5332baeba40a5f0b:0xa8ffba40b8cc6f02!8m2!3d44.3274841!4d-103.8352015!16s%2Fm%2F03c397s?entry=ttu>

Conversion of the Black Hills into wasteland does not need another incremental expansion. The region is obviously more valuable to South Dakota in the long-term as it is than any mineral extraction, whose degradation will remain for generations after mineral depleted and the extracted minerals are forgotten. And so the proposed test drilling is very much opposed.